

Remarks/Arguments

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 2 has been amended to positively recite “applies.” Claim 3 has been amended to positively recite “grips.” Claims 7, 9, and 10 have been amended to depend from Claim 22. Claim 21 has been amended to positively recite “rotates,” “applies,” and “engaged.” Claim 22 has been amended to recite “a housing with an integral first mounting structure, wherein said first cam rotates about said first mounting structure,” “a second cam pivotally mounted on an integral second mounting structure, said second cam rotates about said second mounting structure,” “a second spring engaged with said second cam,” and to positively recite that the first and second cams grip the tongue blade in response to a compressive force.

The Rejection of Claims 2, 3, 6-10, 12-15, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 3, 6-10, 12-15, 21, and 22 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,649,341 (*Ashline et al.*). Applicants have amended Claims 21 and 22 to incorporate claim language as tentatively agreed upon by the Applicants and the Examiner which place independent claims 21 and 22 in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 3, and 6-10, being directly or indirectly, dependent from Claim 22 are allowable since Claim 22 has been amended as agreed upon by the Applicants and the Examiner. Claims 12-15, being directly or indirectly, dependent from Claim 21 are allowable since Claim 21 has been amended as agreed upon by the Applicants and the Examiner.

Attorney Docket No. GTAP:102US
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/711,289
Reply to Office Action of August 6, 2007
Date: November 5, 2007
Page 7 of 7

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned if such contact will facilitate an efficient examination and allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

/Ryan K. Liebengood/

Ryan K. Liebengood
Registration No.: 60,093
Customer No.: 24041
Simpson & Simpson, PLLC
5555 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221-5406
Tel.: 1.716.626.1564
Fax: 1.716.626.0366

RKL/